

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2435

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 0065

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, DR

SUBJECT: PLANNED SHIPMENTS OF SUGAR TO THE U.S. BY PRODUCING COUNTRIES

DURING THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1975

REF: STATE 279327

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL EMBASSY HAS CANVASSED THE DOMINICAN SUGAR INSTITUTE (INAZUCAR) AND THE THREE PRINCIPAL SUGAR PRODUCERS IN THE DR: THE STATE-OWNED SUGAR COUNCIL (CONSEJO ESTATAL DEL AZUCAR - CEA), GULF AND WESTERN, AND THE VICINI FAMILY. ESTIMATES ON 1975 PRODUCTION RANGE FROM LOW 1.2 MILLION TONS (ALL FIGURES ARE IN SHORT-TONS) TO HIGH OF 1.3 MILLION, WITH SHIPMENTS TO THE U.S. DURING 1975 RANGING FROM 650,000 TO 800,000.

2. DOMINICAN SUGAR HARVEST, WHICH USUALLY LASTS ABOUT SIX MONTHS, BEGINS IN SOME AREAS EARLY IN DECEMBER, BUT WILL START AS LATE AS LATTER PART OF FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH IN CASE OF GULF AND WESTERN IN EASTERN END OF THE ISLAND. CONSEQUENTLY, MOST OF SUGAR PRODUCED WILL PROBABLY BE UNCLASSIFIED

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SHIPPED WITHIN FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1975.

3. ALL THREE PRODUCERS ARE REQUIRED TO SET ASIDE EQUAL PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PRODUCTION FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, WHICH IS ESTIMATED FOR 1975 AT 200,000. REMAINDER GOES TO U.S. OR WORLD MARKET.

4. GULF AND WESTERN, WHOSE PRODUCTION HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY DROUGHT, HAS ALREADY COMMITTED ALL BUT 90,000 OF ITS 1975 HARVEST. ALVARO CARTA, HEAD OF GULF AND WESTERN'S DOMINICAN SUBSIDIARY, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR GULF AND WESTERN PRODUCTION FOR 1975 WOULD PROBABLY BE NO MORE THAN 300,000, OF WHICH 160,000 WOULD GO TO U.S. OTHERS SAY GULF AND WESTERN MIGHT PRODUCE 350,000.

5. CEA WILL PROBABLY PRODUCE BETWEEN 800,000 AND 850,000, BUT IT IS KNOWN TO BE EXPANDING ITS PRODUCTION, AND COULD POSSIBLY PRODUCE UP TO 900,000. CARTA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR CEA MIGHT SHIP AS LITTLE AS 400,000 TO U.S. BUT COULD PERHAPS SHIP AS MUCH AS 500,000. ACCORDING TO PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS OF CEA'S BUDGET FOR 1975, CEA PLANS TO SHIP 510,000 TONS TO THE U.S. OR AN INCREASE OF 87,000 TONS OVER 1974. THE HEAD OF CEA IS OUT OF TOWN AND NO ONE ELSE IN THE ORGANIZATION IS AUTHORIZED TO GIVE OUT PRODUCTION PLANS OR FIGURES. THE EMBASSY HOPES TO GET MORE DETAILED FIGURES LATER.

6. THE AGATT REPORTS THE VICINI FAMILY COULD PRODUCE 90 TO 100,000. THE VICINIS SOLD 70,000 OF 1975 HARVEST ON NOVEMBER 18 WITH STIPULATION THAT ALL BE DELIVERED TO THE U.S. MARKET. FIRST LOT OF 10,000 IS TO BE SHIPPED BETWEEN JANUARY 22 AND FEBRUARY 15, WITH FIVE SUBSEQUENT LOTS OF 12,000 EACH TO BE SHIPPED BETWEEN FEBRUARY 15 AND JULY 1. HEAD OF FAMILY, FELIPI VICINI, TOLD ECONOMIC COUNSELOR THAT HIS CORPORATION MIGHT AT MOST HAVE AN ADDITIONAL FIVE OR TEN THOUSAND FOR EXPORT IN 1975.

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